

Testimony of Jennifer Hatch, Program Associate
Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG)

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee

February 10, 2011

Testimony Regarding: SB200, "An Act Establishing Geothermal Renewable Energy Credits"
SB 255, "An Act Concerning Solar Renewable Energy Certifications"
SB 634, "An Act Concerning Farm Methane Resources," And
HB 5846, "An Act Concerning Energy Generation from Organic
Refuse"

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony with respect to the four proposed bills regarding renewable energy credits.

The ConnPIRG Consumer Energy Campaign has three simple principles: We will fight to save consumers money on their energy bills, to ensure that those bills make sense and support our local economy and jobs by promoting locally-generated, clean, renewable energy.

While we look forward to offering expanded testimony as the broader energy discussion moves forward with S.B. 1, these proposed bills are a first opportunity to discuss the issue of locally-sourced renewable energy.

Connecticut consumers and our economy face smothering energy costs. Both business and personal consumers struggle with high monthly bills stoked by the 2nd highest rates in the country and anemic efficiency efforts. We need to build an energy system that works to bring down the costs of energy to ratepayers, now and over the long-term.

Investing in locally-generated, clean, renewable energy benefits consumers in several ways: 1) It creates high paying "green jobs" that support the local economy; 2) It relieves pressure on our transmission systems, generally regarded as the most expensive component of our rate structure, thus saving consumers money and, 3) it provides a long-term hedge against increasing and volatile fossil fuel prices,

On behalf of ConnPIRG's members, I urge you to help all Connecticut's ratepayers by continuing to pursue local, renewable and clean energy solutions.